

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

November 26, 2012

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Important Dates

November 27-28 Outdoor Ed Trip
November 29 Final Draft - President Research Paper Due
December 4 Picture Retake Day
Report Card Distribution

Dear Families,

This week we travel to Lorado Taft Field Center for our Outdoor Ed experience. The Lorado Taft Field Center is located in Oregon, Il. It is about 2 hours away by bus. Click on this link for more information about the facility: <http://www.niu.edu/taft/outdoored/index.shtml>.

A suggested packing list is posted on the 5th grade wiki on the field trip information page. It will be cold, and we will be outside for most of the day, so talk to your child about the importance of dressing in layers. They should bring a hat and gloves, etc to wear. Students will be doing a fair amount of hiking around outside in the woods, so please have students bring boots if they own a pair.

All the girls will be staying on the second floor of one dorm. Chaperones will be on the same floor as the girls and Holmes staff members will be on the first floor. The girls will sleep in large rooms with 8 or so bunk beds per room. Boys will be in two separate dorms. Each dorm is a large room with many, many bunk beds. Each bed has a mattress and a thin pillow, so students will probably want to bring a sleeping bag and possibly their own pillow.

Please remember there are to be no electronics brought on this trip.

Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

Art - We are learning about Surrealism. We have looked at the artwork of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Surrealism juxtaposes everyday, common things in unusual and surprising ways. We are creating surreal collage self-portraits. We began by tracing and cutting out our silhouette in profile and using old magazines and discarded encyclopedia's, we are creating a surreal collage.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. We will be working on the pieces for the specials night over the next few weeks.

Chorus- We will have practice with just the 4th graders this week since the 5th grade is on their trip!

Spanish - The fifth graders are working on finishing up their art and Spanish project. They will be recording their voices this week! Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - Congratulations to Luca C., Max G., and Dylan L.... this fall's Reading Olympics winners! It was a very close competition. Thank you to all the participants-- you did a truly amazing job. The spring competition is right around the corner, and I will be book talking these books in a few weeks. In the meantime, students will be working in small groups using CultureGrams to produce a final piece for the specials night. More about that next week! Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

For the next few weeks, we will be reading the book Rules by Cynthia Lord as a class. As we read, we will be determining the different themes that arise. We will also be examining the story from the perspective of the different characters. Each student will be doing the same on their own with a novel that they have chosen.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week. Students also are revising their science research papers in class with a focus on ideas and organization. Over the next few weeks, students will continue to edit these papers with a goal of producing a polished, quality product.

Math

We will continue working with fractions and decimals this week. Last week, students worked on converting fractions into decimals by finding equivalent fractions with a denominator of 10 or 100. This week, students will use both the probability meter and a fraction stick chart to identify equivalent decimals. At the end of the week, students will also use a calculator to convert fractions to decimals. Please remind your child to make sure his or her calculator is in school. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering what we worked on during the week.

Science

The energy unit tests will be handed back to students this week. In class, we will continue to work on the feasibility study to include a calculated return on investment on installing a wind turbine or solar panels to generate energy for our classroom. Students will give their recommendations on installing an alternative energy source. Students continue to work on revising their research papers. The final draft is due Friday, December 7.

Social Studies

Big Question: None - Due to Outdoor Ed Field Trip

This week students will have Monday and Thursday to complete their PhotoStory portion of the President Project. Students will create these PhotoStories to go along with the information they presented in their President Essays. Students will share these with each other in class on Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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